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# (SNP012) Lyle Beahm interviewed by Dorothy Noble Smith, transcribed by Sharon G. Marston

Lyle Edward Beahm

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ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM  
SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

NARRATOR: Mr. Lyle Beahm  
(Mrs. Beahm)  
INTERVIEWER: Dorothy Smith  
PLACE: Jewell Hollow  
DATE: April 25, 1979

TRANSCRIBED BY:  
Sharon G. Marston

COMPLETED DATE:  
June 13, 1980

D.S.: We are interviewing Mr. Lynn...

L.B.: Lyle..Lyle..L Y L E...

D.S.: Lyle...Lyle Beahm who used to live in Jewell Hollow.

L.B.: Right.

D.S.: Now, exactly where was your home?

L.B.: It was...about six miles from Luray...East.

D.S.: Alright, six miles east from Luray. <sup>D.P.</sup> Would you say it was near Shenk Hollow?

L.B.: Right. (Right under) Yea, well that used to be called the Old Mill Road. Usta be an old mill that sat down at the bottom there beside the creek. Old Shenk Mill.

D.S.: There was a mill there?

L.B.: Yea.

D.S.: What kind of a mill...

L.B.: A grinding mill. Where you grind grain and stuff. My daddy was the last one that ran that.

D.S.: Your daddy ran that mill?

L.B.: John W. Beahm. The last one that run that mill. The old John P. Shenk mill.

D.S.: Okey, the mill ground cornmeal?

L.B.: Right..cornmeal.

D.S.: And wheat..flour.

L.B.: Flour. Right. Ran by an old water wheel.

D.S.: Did he pay..I mean did people pay him to do it..

L.B.: Brought stuff there to have it ground.

D.S.: Yea, and did he charge them for it or did he take a certain amount.

L.B.: I don't know whether he charged them or just took the ground stuff for it. A trade...Idon't know.

D.S.: Where did the people come from that brought their...

L.B.: Most out of the Hollow, Morning Star, Sherk Hollow.

D.S.: Uhhum. Wonderful. What was your home like? How was it built?

L.B.: Oh, about a six room house. Eleven of us children.

D.S.: Eleven children! Wow.

*MRS.*: (His father was married twice)

Oh. Uhhuh. So. You had a six room house. Was it a log house?

L.B.: No. No. Just a frame house.

D.S.: Uhhuh, a frame house. Was the furniture in that house...store  
furniture?

L.B.: Old Furniture.

D.S.: Was it homemade?

L.B.: My father made some of it yes mam.

D.S.: Oh, great.

D.S.: Do you have any of it left?

L.B.: No I haven't.

D.S.: Ah!

*MRS.*: (he didn't get any of it)

You were one of the youngest sons then?

L.B.: No.

*MRS.*: (His half-sister is the one who ended up with it.)

L.B.: It's just one of those things.

*MRS.*: (Well, it's true)

D.S.: How did your mother take care of all these children?

L.B.: My mother died when I was three years old. I was by the first wife.

D.S.: Okey then...Uhhuh. Alright. So then your father remarried shortly  
after *that*

L.B.: Yea, he married a *Blanche* Sours. We usta live down there right



Park Headquarters set.

D.S.: Oh yea.

L.B.: Right there.

D.S.: *Elgie* L.B. Sours sister?

L.B.: It was Monroe Sours daughter.

D.S.: Monroe..yea.

L.B.: Uhhuh. He was the one that run the old Tannery.

D.S.: Effie.

L.B.: Effie..she was my step mother's aunt.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Well how did your step mother take care of so many children?

L.B.: She was a good step mother. There isn't any question about that.

Course us kids helped her along with them.

D.S.: Yea. Sure. Did you have a special job you had to do?

L.B.: Well..uh kinda..my books and things ... I had to take my father back  
and forth to work. Take care of the family you know. After I got up  
*I went to*  
driving the car.

D.S.: Where did your father work?

L.B.: He was a carpenter. He worked all over town up here.

D.S.: I get it..So he did...

L.B.: He was *the one furnished* for the house Bobby lives in.

D.S.: Oh really?

L.B.: Yea. He run a sawmill too.

D.S.: Uhhuh. So your father didn't rely on just the farm for his living?

L.B.: No. Very little farming they done up there. There wasn't much

farming that could be done up there. Raise some corn..you know

little corn and potatoes, cabbage...stuff all like that in the garden.

D.S.: Do you know if your grandfabher did outside work too?

L.B.: I never did know my granddaddy on my daddy's side.

D.S.: Okey. Uh. Do you know what your mother's maiden name was?

L.B.: Birdie.

D.S.: Birdie?

L.B.: Fox.

D.S.: Oh, Birdie Fox. Uhhuh.

L.B.: Yea. She's been dead about sixty seven or eight years.

D.S.: Were there any childhood illnesses that you know of?

L.B.: Any what?

D.S.: Childhood illnesses.

L.B.: No.

D.S.: No. Alright did your father have a cow?

L.B.: Oh, yea. Had a couple cows.

D.S.: Couple cows!

L.B.: Uhhuh. Every..generally <sup>kept</sup> ~~got~~ a couple milk cows.

D.S.: And horses.

L.B.: Had an old mule.

D.S.: Old mule.

L.B.: Plow the garden with.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Right. Did you..roughly how many acres did you have?

L.B.: Oh, I'd say around ten or twelve acres. There where we used to live. But we had a mountain place on up where Maude Sours used to live. What you call the old *Abe Felo* place up there. He owned that at one time.

D.S.: Uhhuh, right. You mean sort of near where Morning Star is.

L.B.: Yea. Do you know where Miss Maude Sours lives?

D.S.: Yea.

L.B.: Well, it's right on straight up the hollow there from that.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Right. Okey. Now um..you didn't have any sheep?

L.B.: No. No.

D.S.: No sheep.

L.B.: No sheep.

D.S.: What kind of orchard did you have?

L.B.: We didn't have one. Just a few apple trees scattered around. No orchard at all. Just a few scattered apple trees.

D.S.: Uhhum.

L.B.: Which was mostly..cherries..wild cherries was around too. Around through there.

D.S.: Yea. So, I've heard. There used to be alot of wild cherries.

L.B.: Yea. cherries. great big ones. Bigger than these improved ones you get now.

D.S.: Yea. And they just grew wild.?

L.B.: Oh, yea.

D.S.: Wonder why they aren't there now?

L.B.: Oh, they all died out. Got some kind of blight and died. Just like the chestnut.

D.S.: Did you have any chestnut...  
trees

L.B.: Plenty of chestnuts, around up there..yea.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Now let's get back to the gardening. You grew...

L.B.: Cabbage, tomatoes, potaotes, sweet potatoes..onions..

D.S.: Rhubard?

L.B.: Rhubarb.

D.S.: Asparagus?

L.B.: Yea. Turnips, radishes, lettuce..mostly everything.

D.S.: Uhhum. How did you keep them over the winter?

L.B.: In the winter..in winter your cabbages..plow a <sup>fur</sup> opening and bury the cabbage head down in the ground and bury it..roots stick out. Turnips, bury down in a hole in the ground. <sup>The rest</sup> in a cellar down under the house.

D.S.: How did they keep?

L.B.: Fine.

D.S.: Sure.

L.B.: In the fall of the year we'd boil applebutter.

D.S.: Alright we are going to get into the applebutter..we're going to get into the applebutter. Alright we might as well now.  
You had apples...

L.B.: Oh yea. <sup>And everybody around</sup>

D.S.: And everybody around...

L.B.: <sup>mylum</sup> Mylum apples..<sup>mylum</sup> Mylum apples.

D.S.: I have two on my property...

L.B.: Have you. Well you can't have any better apple than a mylum is ..  
for applebutter.

D.S.: Your right. So..did you have any close neighbors?

L.B.: Close neighbors. Closest neighbor lived I reckon about a quarter of a mile. Usta be an old house right there where the old mill set.

D.S.: Okey..uhhuh..now would those neighbors all get together when it was applebutter boiling time.

L.B.: Well, they mostly come out of Jewell Hollow up there and come down tohelp. See my stepmother had a sister up in there, and they would always come down and help.

*MRS* (Well they all got together and helped)

L.B. All got together yea..pealed apples and snitz you know.

D.S.: Alright, when did you boil the apples.

L.B.: Fall of the year.

D.S.: Morning noon or night.

L.B.: Oh, it took all day.

D.S.: Took all day..

L.B.: Oh yea.

D.S.: Did you have any music while you were doing it?

L.B.: Music. Not specially.

D.S.: No. Did anybody bring any moonshine?

L.B.: Nope, didn't have no moonshine. <sup>just</sup> Boiled applebutter.

D.S.: Do any dancing?

L.B.: Well around at different places they did..but we never did at home.

D.S.: Not while there was applebutter boiling.

L.B.: No. Huhhuh.

D.S.: Did people bring food, because if it took all day...

L.B.: No indeed.

D.S.: Well then what did you eat?

L.B.: Oh just vegetables and stuff like that.

D.S.: No, but if nobody brought any food and working all day...

L.B.: We furnished our own food.

D.S.: Ah, okey.

MRS. (Somebody fixed a powerful lunch)

Yea.

L.B.: While somebody was stirring the kettle the others would be eating.

( I remember that. They just  
come in to help, and we furnished the food.)

D.S.: Okey. Now if the paddle touched the side of the kettle what happened?

L.B.: What's that.

D.S.: If the paddle touched the side of the kettle what happened?

L.B.: It all depended on who was helping you stir. I knew you was going to get around to that.

MRS. (Depended on whether it was somebody you liked)

L.B. I been to plenty of applebutter boilings before.

D.S.: And you carefully chose your partner?

L.B.: Oh yea. I'd try to bump it then.

D.S.: After the applebutter was made how was it stored?

L.B.: They stored it in gallon jars. Regular clay jars..milk jars whatever you want to call them.

D.S.: Okey. Have you any idea where you got those, from.

L.B.: I would imagine they got them at the store..Maybe Mr. Judd's store.. maybe..I' don't know..course ~~you~~ different places. You could have got them in town or..but I imagine some of them come from over at Mr. <sup>Lee</sup> ~~Nead~~ Judd's store.

D.S.: Okey, then would you cover them with anything? Did you cover them? So the flies *didn't get in?*

L.B.: Yea. wait til it cooled off and then they put them away.

D.S.: Uhhh. Now you mentioned W. <sup>Lee</sup> ~~Nead~~ Judd's Store. Did you do your shop...buying there?

L.B.: Um..there was one store up there at Beahm's Post Office. A store used to be up there too.

D.S.: That's right.

L.B.: And Merle's father had a store right there too. The old toll gate was there.

MRS. (You shopped both places)

L.B. We shopped both places, yea.

D.S.: Alright now when you went to buy..did you pay cash?

L.B.: Yea. Or trade for eggs, or sell old hens or anything like that.

D.S.: Did you raise pigs.

L.B.: Pigs, yea. We bought them and fatten them, you know. We didn't  
raise many.

D.S.: Just enough for your family?

L.B.: That's right.

D.S.: So you didn't use those when you went to trade at the store.

L.B.: Oh no. no. No we generally took care of all the meats..We kill  
four or five hogs in the fall.

D.S.: So when you take eggs and chickens to the store and you would get  
credit with that.

L.B.: Yea, get credit and buy stuff.

D.S.: Have you any idea what you used to have to buy? Cause you raised  
practically everything.

L.B.: Generally had to buy flour, and sugar, and salt...

*MRS*: (We had flour, and when it run out....)

pepper and all that kind of stuff.

D.S.: Kerosene?

L.B.: Yea.

D.S.: Okey.Um. Alright now you would go to either of these stores..uh  
get credit at Beahm's store..

L.B.: Sometimes they would give you what they call a due bill. If you  
didn't spend it all then, you take that due bill back and it would  
still be good.

D.S.: Yea. Did you ever catch rabbits and sell those?

L.B.: Oh yea.

D.S.: How much would you get?

L.B.: 25 and 30¢, a piece.

D.S.: You lived high on the hog.

L.B.: Yea.

D.S.: Really would you get that much?

L.B.: Yea. 25 and 30¢ a piece is what you'd get for the hide.

D.S.: Oh, you didn't sell live rabbits?

L.B.: Oh, no, no. You took the interals out of them and sold them just like they were. Sell them to Mr. Judd over there. He'd give you 25 and 30¢ a piece for them.

D.S.: Uh..great.

L.B.: I've seen dozens of times he had them hanging over there. I don't know who he sold them to.

D.S.: Did you ever eat rabbit?

L.B.: Oh yea. Plenty of them. Squirrel too

D.S.: And coon...

L.B.: Usta catch a few skuncks up there on the hill.

D.S.: Yea. What did you do with them?

L.B.: Just skin them and sell the hides.

D.S.: You did? They didn't smell?

L.B.: Yea, they smelt...

D.S.: How about huckleberries. Did you ever pick huckleberries?

L.B.: No, I never did pick nohuckleberries. I was always afraid to go pick huckleberries. I tell you there wasn't many up in there. *that way.*  
Very few huckleberries I ever seen up in there.

D.S.: Did you ever see anybody deliberately starting a fire so they would have huckleberries?

L.B.: No. No. No Mam.

D.S.: You didn't. Okey. Alright now how about the schools. What school



did you go to?

L.B.: I went to Shenks School..

D.S.: ~~Yow~~ went to Shenk School.

L.B.: I went to Shenk School.

D.S.: That was a one room school.  
one

L.B.: That was a <sup>one</sup> room school and I've seen as many as sixty children  
in ~~that room~~ <sup>there</sup> at one time..one teacher. That was when Aunt Maude's  
I believe  
children was coming to school. She had three coming to school when  
I was there.

D.S.: Yea. And you had sixty children..there were sixty children..

L.B.: There were sixty children in there..I've seen that many in there.

D.S.: What time of the year did it start?

L.B.: It started..I guess around → generally <sup>run</sup> nine months....

D.S.: It was a nine month. <sup>school</sup>

L.B.: Yes sir.

D.S.: How far up did it go?

L.B.: Up to seventh grade. Through the seventh

D.S.: Then did you go down to Luray?

L.B.: Then you had to go to Luray if you went. But I never did go.

D.S.: Why?

L.B.: Because I..I had to help my daddy. Take care of the rest of them.

D.S.: Oh, I see. Okey, so what did you learn when you were in school.

L.B.: I just learned all I could...that's about all I can tell you.

D.S.: Reading..writing..

L.B.: Reading, writing, arithmetic, Spelling..

D.S.: History..

L.B.: History..geography

D.S.: That was very good. Did you have the same teacher all the <sup>time?</sup>

L.B.: Oh, no, no. We had a different teacher about every year. We even had teachers from way down on the eastern shore...North Hampton.. all down in there.

D.S.: You did.....Oh...then would a teacher stay with a family?

L.B.: No they would stay with Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Judd..next to Mr. <sup>Lee</sup> ~~Nea~~ Judd's store...well sometimes they would stay with Mr. <sup>Lee</sup> ~~Nea~~ Judd's too.

D.S.: Yea. Okey..

L.B.: No we never..I never had the same teacher two years

*MRS.* (Didnt you say you used to go up and and start the fires?)

*L.B.* Oh, yea, I used to go up and start the fires every morning, for the teachers. Yea. I've waded in snow up to my waist. Never got too bad for you to go to school then.

D.S.: How about shoes. Did you wear

L.B.: Had old homemade shoes.

D.S.: Did you wear them all year round?

L.B.: Oh yea. Rub blisters back here on your heels...

D.S.: Oh.

L.B.: Old Mr. Merle Fox's grandfather..greatgrandfather I reckon used to make shoes. We'd get some of them down there. Then they got to selling them at Old Mr. <sup>Lee</sup> ~~Nea~~ Judd's store and that's where we began getting our shoes...and clothes..overhauls..generally wore overhauls.

D.S.: Sure.

L.B.: Like..what do you call these blue denim's...just like the Blue Bell makes..only they called them overhauls.

D.S.: Yea. Did you wear shoes all year round?

L.B.: Oh yea.

D.S.: You did?

L.B.: Oh sometimes when I was real young, I would go barefooted. I was mostly afraid of snakes.

D.S.: There were a lot of snakes, weren't there?

L.B.: One bite me one time.

D.S.: What did you do?

L.B.: I got sick..I didn't make it all the way home. Mrs. Maude Sours' husband..I got over toward his mailbox and that was as far as I could make it. I was over at the other place...and I still got the scar right there.

D.S.: What was it..a copperhead..

L.B.: A copperhead.

D.S.: Yea. So what did he do.

L.B.: He called the doctor and he come up there and split it open. He put *it in* a gallon bucket and put my hand down in coal oil and he brought me home..somebody brought me home on a horse.

D.S.: What Doctor?

L.B.: Dr. Lorne Hammer.

D.S.: Oh yea..Dr. Hammer.

L.B.: They didn't have no car yet either.

D.S.: No. Had to come by horseback. Did you ever hear <sup>of</sup> the making of snakeweed poltice to put on if you got a bite.

L.B.: No.

D.S.: If you got a cold..what did your stepmother do? <sup>L.B.:</sup> Well the most.. a dose of castor oil in them days.

D.S.: Did you ever hear of turpentine and <sup>sugar</sup> water...

L.B.: Turpentine and <sup>sugar</sup> water..lard..all kinds of stuff.

D.S.: Did she ever make sassafrass tea?

L.B.: Oh yea. I drank that too.

D.S.: Peppermint tea.

L.B.: No I never drank none of that...~~peppermint~~..I drank plenty of  
sassafrass.

D.S.: Did she know of any herbs to use for medicinal purposes.

L.B.: No, huhuh.

D.S.: Okey, now you used to plow your garden and you used the mule?

L.B.: Right.

D.S.: How big was that garden?

L.B.: Oh, quarter of an acre I reckon. Somewheres in the neighborhood..  
better than that maybe. Half acre..somewhere.

D.S.: And you had two cows so you had a lot of butter.

L.B.: Oh yea.

D.S.: You sell that too I suppose..if you had extra.

L.B.: Well we used mostly...eat butter mostly. We didn't sell to much of  
that stuff.

D.S.: Did you have a spring?

L.B.: Oh yea. Nice spring.

D.S.: Then you kept your milk and butter *there?*

L.B.: Spring house...

D.S.: That was nice wasn't it...great

L.B.: Yes it was. Water from the stream run clear on through the milk box.

D.S.: Pure water?

L.B.: Pure water.

D.S.: Great. Now you were saying earlier that sometimes some people would  
come and play some music.

L.B.: Well we didn't have too much music. We had an old victrola and then finally we got a radio.

*MRS*: (She means fiddle and guitar and so forth)

D.S.: Yea, right.

L.B.: Well we used to go up to Jewell Hollow hear them..they never would come home and play..we used to go to Jewell Hollow and hear them. Play at different places. They used to have dances and things... old Mr. Johnnie Sours and them would play.

D.S.: Yea. They would play fiddles...

L.B.: Fiddles, banjos, guitar.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did you ever see any homemade banjos?

L.B.: No I can't say I ever saw any homemade ones.

D.S.: Okey so how would you know theywere going to have a dance?

L.B.: Oh they would spread it around.

*MRS*: (There was quite a few people that lived up there)

L.B. There was a lot of people in Jewell Hollow. You know there had to be to be sixty children in<sup>that</sup> school.

D.S.: That's true.

*MRS*: (Up the main highway even..there were a lot of people.)

L.B.: See there usta be some children down in Shenk Hollow, Thronton's Gap up there..come from way up there...

D.S.: To the dance in Jewell Hollow

L.B.: Come over there..come from way over in Morning Star they'd come over there..when there were dances too.

D.S.: Uhhum. There were Virginia Reels that you did. Or did you do square dances?

L.B.: Yea..yea...square dances.

D.S.: Who was the caller do you remember?

L.B.: Lord No. There was so many of them..I done forgot.

D.S.: There were a lot of them? Oh great. You know I want to go back to shoes for one minute. Did you ever have..sort of like a little metal horseshoe on the heel...

L.B.: Yea. Heel plate they called them. Looked like a horseshoe.

D.S.: Who made those?

L.B.: Well you mostly got them at stores.

D.S.: Did you have a blacksmith *anywhere around?* in Luray?

L.B.: Blacksmith. The only one I knew of was right over here in Shenk Hollow..Mr. Barney Shenk. That's the closest Black *smith* place that I knew of, around up there.

D.S.: Did most of the children wear those on their shoes?

L.B.: Oh not all of them..huhuh. Just some of them on them real heavy shoes they'd have them on there. To keep from wearing your heels out.

D.S.: Sure. And didn't it help you grip as you were walking?

L.B.: Yea.

D.S.: Did you do a lot of walking?

L.B.: Yes. I did.

D.S.: Well, I know you walked up to the dances.

L.B.: Yep.

D.S.: How far away was the school?

L.B.: School wasn't more than about..oh it wasn't more than half a mile, from home.

D.S.: So you didn't walk much to school. So where did you do your walking.. to visit people.

L.B.: Yea.

D.S.: Was there a lot of visiting?

L.B.: Oh yea. They used to come around up there.

D.S.: Would they just do it of an evening or on a weekend.

L.B.: Well..most every night or so. There'd be somebody around.

D.S.: How nice.

*MRS:* (It is really nice. They visit a lot in those days)

*D.S.* Were the families mostly relatives?

L.B.: Yea.

D.S.: They were. Did you ever see children because of too close in -  
breeding were a little bit wrong?

*MRS:* (She means kinda like Ernest was.) (They were kin wasn't they?)

L.B.: They was first cousins.

*MRS:* (First cousins and they had a son that was afflicted.)

D.S.: There were a few...but, after all we have them in every society.

*MRS:* (Well that's true)

*D.S.* Uhhum. Uh...Have you any idea Mr. Beahm, where your family came  
from?

L.B.:  I think they originally come from Germany.

D.S.: Do you know about when?

L.B.: No, I don't.

D.S.: How many generations would you say have been here?

L.B.: Well I tell ya I don't remember no fer back than my grandmother.

D.S.: But they came from Germany.

*MRS:* (That's what they always said to me.) (Beahm's came from Germany)

*D.S.* Uhhuh..Are you any kin to the Beahm's of Beahm Chapel...Your son  
Bobby, said there were three different Beahm people...

*MRS:* (I'm kin to the Beahm's in a different way too)

Uhhuh...

L.B.: Well there ain't too many Beahm's...wasn't too many of us  
kin..the rest of them was a different Beahm.

D.S.: That's what he said..I was wondering about that. Uh..where did  
you go to church?

L.B.: Morning Star.

D.S.: You went to Morning Star. How do you like the way they are changing  
it?

L.B.: I haven't been up there lately.

D.S.: Uh..that was a fairly good size walk...

L.B.: It was. About three..three and a half miles over there.

D.S.: Sure. Would you go every Sunday?

L.B.: Well....once in a while we would miss a Sunday.

D.S.:HOW did a fellow court a girl?

L.B.: How did..how what?

D.S.: How did a fellow court a girl?

L.B.: I don't know he just courted is all I can tell you.

MRS: (You walked <sup>all that</sup> a long distance to see her...)

D.S.: Where did she live?

MRS: (Over near Morning Star Church)

DS Oh you did?

MRS: (Not me)

DS Oh, uhhuh. Where did you live.

MRS: (I lived at Rocky Branch)

DS You lived in Rocky Branch.

L.B.: Oh, I went with one over there where..lived right next to where  
Aunt Maude Sours lives now.



D.S.: Oh really?

L.B.: Yea. That's where the old Rattleburg School set. I went with her for about two or fhree years.

D.S.: What..well I better not ask what happened. You met Mrs. Beahm and that was that. Right?

L.B.: That's right.

D.S.: But when you went courting were you chaperoned? Like if you stopped in to see her..did her mother and father stay with you or...

L.B.: Oh no, not all the time.

D.S.: They trusted you.

L.B.: Oh sure.

D.S.: Why?

L.B.: Well, I don't know why, but....It's a lot different than what it is now.

D.S.: Yea. Right. Did you ever do anything like sleigh rides..?

L.B.: Oh, yea. Usta have those skateboards they called them. We didn't have no sleigh, but we made our own...sleds. Had what we called a skateboard...

MRS: (Tell her where you usta go sleigh riding)

L.B. Well, you know where the top of that hill is where Mr. Charlie Judd lives? Down to where..bottom of that hill..back this a way.. toward the old mill. We usta start up on top of that hill and come all the way down to the creek. Schoolhouse usta sit right there at the bottom of the hill...where you turn to go up in Jewell Hollow.. right there the school house set.

D.S.: And that was a long...*ride*

L.B.: And the old foundation is still there.

*MRS.* (He's told me many times about sleigh riding down that long hill)

D.S.: And then you walked back up?

L.B.: Walked back up. Ride down, walk back. I've seen snow up over top those fence rails too. I've even sleigh ride over top of them.

D.S.: Wow! Did you have any toys when you were little boy?

L.B.: The only toys we had was what we made.

D.S.: You'd make what?

L.B.: Oh, make little slides...sleigh and stuff...little <sup>old</sup> wagon..

D.S.: You didn't have marbles?

L.B.: Few marbles...yea. Play a little ball.

D.S.: Yea. Did the girls have dolls?

L.B.: I didn't see many of them.

D.S.: Uhhuh. How did you celebrate Christmas?

L.B.: Well we just had something to eat. And we had an orange or something ...always hang a stocking up you know, and get some candy, nuts, oranges and stuff like that in it. That's about what we got.

D.S.: Did you ever shoot off firecrackers?

L.B.: Oh yea. Shot off firecrackers. But didn't shoot off any firecrackers until we got bigger.

D.S.: How big is bigger?

L.B.: Oh around 16 or 18 years old..shooting firecrackers.

D.S.: Oh you weren't allowed to...

L.B.: No, not when we was small. Huhuh.

*MRS.* (Well did they have them then)?

*L.B.* I don't know whether they had them then or not. I imagine they did, tho.

D.S.: They did.

MRS (Maybe your parents just didn't....)

L.B.: I was always afraid of them.

D.S.: You were. Did you have dogs?

L.B.: Oh yea. We had a couple dogs.

D.S.: Did the dogs keep the rabbits out of the gardens?

L.B.: Oh yea.

D.S.: Uhhuh. They were handy to have around.

L.B.: Might have a rabbit slip in there once in a while but...

D.S.: Did you ever see any deer?

L.B.: I hardly seen a deer when we lived up in there. Didn't see no bears.

D.S.: But you did see one.....No. But you did occasionally see a deer.

L.B.: Once in a while. Not too often. Not like it is now.

D.S.: Yea. No. How about hunting. Did you go hunting...

L.B.: Oh, I generally went rabbit hunting.

D.S.: Yea. You<sup>d</sup> use a gun...

L.B.: Shotgun.

D.S.: How could you afford the bullets *for it?*

L.B.: Well they didn't cost too much then.

D.S.: Oh, okey. Now this is not a very happy subject, but if somebody died..

did you..how was the funeral handled. Did they do any embalming?

L.B.: I really don't know when they started embalming.

MRS: (Your little half brother got killed on his bicycle didn't he?)

L.B. Yea.

MRS (Do you remember anything about that funeral?)

L.B. Well I don't remember whether they embalmed him, or not.

D.S.: Did they keep him at home?

L.B.: I think they did, yes.

D.S.: Okey. Then they didn't embalm....

L.B.: No, I don't believe they did. I don't think they did.

D.S.: No. Did they make the caskets or buy them?

L.B.: They bought them.

D.S.: They bought it. Did they buy a monument or did they use rocks?

L.B.: I think they used tombstones.

D.S.: They did. Uhhuh. Did you have a family burial plot?

L.B.: Well, he's buried at Morning Star. And my father he's buried  
at Beahm's Chapel. My mother's buried up at Beahm Hollow.

*MRS*: (Scattered around ain't they)

D.S.: Yea. They sure did. Uhhuh. Did you have any spelling bees.

L.B.: Oh yea. We'd spell different schools

D.S.: Were they fun?

L.B.: Yes they were. Had some good spellers back them days.

D.S.: You say around at different schools. How would you get to the  
schools?

L.B.: I'd walk.

D.S.: There you go walking again.

L.B.: Didn't have much riding around then.

D.S.: You never thought of getting a horse and riding him?

L.B.: No. I never did ride to much. Most of mine was walking. Til I  
got my car.

D.S.: Great. Um..hey did you ever make sorghum?

L.B.: Sorghum..I never did make none but I've seen it made. We never did  
grow no cane to make sorghum..mo.lassas, out of it.

D.S.: Yea. Could you tell me...I know your stepmother made lye soap.

L.B.: Oh yea.

D.S.: Do you know how she made it?

L.B.: Well she'd take some old grease and stuff and so many cans of <sup>BABBIT</sup> rabbit  
lye and I think she mostly used old strong lard..what was left over  
to make the soap out of. <sup>skins</sup> and all that kind of stuff.

D.S.: And let it sit for a while?

L.B.: She cantell you.

D.S.: Alright how do you do it?

*MRS* (That's the way they used to do it..take old <sup>skins off of the meat</sup> cans of  
and strong lard, and like he said the lye and boil it for so long  
and then <sup>pour</sup> ~~put~~ it in pans and let it <sup>harden</sup> ~~sit~~ for so long.)

D.S.: It was good soap wasn't it?

*MRS* (It was good soap.)

*D.S.* Did you ever use that for poison ivy?

*MRS* (No, I didn't) (But you probably could.)

D.S.: I got <sup>some</sup> one time and it worked.

(I spect it would be alright)  
mean

L.B.: I <sup>^</sup> tell you that old homemade stuff was good now..I'll tell you, that.

D.S.: It was soft.

*L.B.*: You can't beat it.

D.S.: You really can't.

It's too bad we're not making it now. How about laundry day..was that  
a hard day for your mother?

L.B.: Laundry. Well if you get ten or eleven children..you know about what  
it was. Course when the girls got up really big..they would help her,  
right much too.

D.S.: Yea. Do you boil the clothes..scrub them.

L.B.: I think...Didn't you use to put them in the kettle?

MRS (I don't know what you all did. That's what we did. We washed them through two waters, put them in the kettle and boiled them, took them out and rinsed them out *of where we boiled 'em* and then rinsed them in two more waters. By hand too.)

D.S.: Yea.

MRS: (I don't know what you all did, but I can imagine about the same.)

L.B.: That sounds like it....

MRS (And if we wanted to bleach them, we'd go out to the peach tree and get peach leaves off the peach tree and put them in a bag and drop them down in the kettle while we were boiling the white clothes, and that would make them white.)

D.S.: Peach leaves?

MRS: (Peach leaves..more than one time we did that.)

L.B.: What did you make that starch out of?

MRS (Oh, we just used flour for that.)

L.B Huh?

MRS (We used just flour)

L.B I kinda forgot how they made the starch.

MRS (I can remember more than one time going to the peach tree and getting peach leaves and putting them down in the bag and putting them down in the kettle and with the clothes and boiling them with the white clothes to make them white.)

D.S.: That is a fasinating thing to know isn't it?

MRS (It really worked)

DS Yea. The original clorox.

MRS. (Uhhuh, that's wight. We did it lots and lots of times.)

DS Mrs. Beahm, you said you weren't going to say a word..now come on you are going to tell us..I'll bet your mother knew a lot of medicines didn't she?

MRS (No, I don't think she did. My mother didn't.)

L.B.: Her grandmother did.

MRS: (My grandmother used remedies something like you was telling.. for cold..she believed in this camphorated oil and kerosene and lard and turpentine and all of that and put it on a cloth you know, and lay it on you)

Mustard Plastards.

D.S.: Any onion <sup>paultee</sup> plastards...mustard plastards...

L.B.: Used to take this wild cherry bark and make..cook that off you know, and make a good cough syrup. That was good mostly for cough syrup.

D.S.: Bet you enjoyed the time <sup>to take</sup> you took castor oil didn't you.

Did you get it regularly?

L.B.: Get it regular..get it whenever they think you needed it.

Worm stuff they used to give us..What'd they call it? Used to give us that too.

D.S.: Vermifuge?

L.B.: Yea.

D.S.: They gave you vermifuge?

L.B.: Yea. Worm stuff you know.

D.S.: What would they do. Boil that and make sort of a ...

L.B.: I don't know how they fixed it..but I tell you one thing it was a bitter dose.

D.S.: Would you take a spoonful of it?

L.B.: No by the tablespoon full of it or more.

D.S.: Was it thick or thin?

L.B.: Kinda thick...something on the order of castor oil.

D.S.: Wonder how *they* *swad it*?

L.B.: It was rough.

*MRS* (I didn't get that thank goodness.)

(I don't remember it if I did.)

D.S.: Yea.

L.B.: They used to give it to us kids I know, that.

D.S.: Yea *vermifuge* was good to get rid of worms. Right.

L.B.: I don't reckon they ever use it anymore. I don't ever hear tell of it.

D.S.: No. Uh..aside from going to dances what would you do for fun?

L.B.: Oh a bunch of us would get together and talk. That was about all you would do.

*MRS* (Gather up there at the store didn't you?)

*L.B.* Yea, sit around the store and talk...tell jokes.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did you ever play practical jokes? Practical jokes?

L.B.: Oh, different ones.

D.S.: Can you remember any?

L.B.: Oh, they were mostly dirty jokes...

D.S.: Oh, come on.

*MRS* (Jokes that you played on people...she means.)

L.B.: Huh?

*MRS* (Jokes that you played on somebody)

*L.B.* Oh, no I never did play no jokes.

D.S.: No. How about ghost stories. Anybody tell any ghost stories?



(Oh, my.)

D.S.: Can you remember any?

MRS (He can..his neighbors up there used to gather..always gather at night and sit and tell these ghost stories..sometimes if he'd be at the others house, he'd be afraid to go home.)

D.S.: Can you remember any of them?

L.B.: No, I can't remember any...

MRS (He used to sit and tell ~~them~~ <sup>me</sup> every night..he's told me that.

D.S.: And you can't remember a one?

L.B.: Huhuh. I remember I used to go up there at Mr. Raymond Bradley's across from where the old mill set...I used to have a teacher, and she'd come down there aiming to get me..go up ~~to~~ <sup>there to stay</sup> while Mr. and Mrs. Bradley come to town see.. they went up <sup>in a horse + buggy</sup> and it'd be late when they got back..so well I went to stay with her.. until way after 10 or 11 o'clock when they got back at night..she come down with me towards the creek..to see that I didn't fall in the creek..so she'd see me across the bridge...then I was scared to death to come from there home.

D.S.: Because of all the ghost stories.

L.B.: Yea.

D.S.: Did you ever walk over into like Nicholson Hollow or Corbin....

L.B.: No..no huhuh. We uh..walked up on Skyland and Mary's Rock, but I never did go up in <sup>old Rag</sup> or <sup>Nicholson</sup> Hollow. I never did go there.

D.S.: Mary's Rock was still a good hike for you wasn't it.

L.B.: Yes it is. Up to Pinnacles. Walk up to pinnacles. There were chestnuts up there. Oh usta be plenty of chestnuts.

D.S.: Did you ever join the CCC's.

L.B.: No mam. My father worked for the cc's. But I never did.

D.S.: How did you feel when you knew the park was coming in?

L.B.: I just felt there was nothing I could do about it..I just let her

~~them~~ come on in. I saw the first CC boys come up the mountain.

First load of them. Yep. I was water boy when they was building the Lee Highway up the mountain.

D.S.: Oh you were?

*MRS*: (It was a dirt road then)

*DS* Yea. Right.

What does a water boy do?

L.B.: Carry water.

D.S.: That's all?

L.B.; That's all.

D.S.: From the spring? <sup>L.B.</sup> / From the different springs, yea.

D.S.: That was a lot of work.

L.B.: Yea. a lot of men too. They was out there with sledge hammers

*Tappin'* them rocks out from underneath there. Bunch of colored fellows.

D.S.: How old were you?

L.B.: How old was I..let's see. I wasn't too old. Maybe twelve. Twelve or thirteen..somewhere around there.

D.S.: Oh...how much did you get?

L.B.: I wasn't getting but about 50¢ a day.

D.S.: That was good money wasn't it?

*MRS* (That was good money for then)

*DS* That was very good money.

(Uhhuh)

Right.

L.B.: That was ten hours. I've made a many a trip up and down them mountains.

D.S.: Yea. Ten hours.

L.B.: Hunting down there at those springs after water.

D.S.: Yea.

L.B.: Hot you know.

D.S.: Felt like throwing it over yourself rather than carrying it. Oh golly.

L.B.: Carry different cups.. one for the whites and one for the colored.

D.S.: Sure, of course.

L.B.: Yes, sir.

D.S.: Hey speaking of that, did you ever hear that uh the colored people were not allowed to come into the mountains. If they come in they were hurried away?

L.B.: No, not up in there. No, huhuh. Not it wasn't like that up in there.

D.S.: Did you see many tourists after the road got through, after the Lee Highway got through.

L.B.: See what?

D.S.: See many tourists..lots of cars?

L.B.: Well, not for a few years after that anyway.

D.S.: Uhhuh. What kind of a lock did you have on your door?

L.B.: Just a regular old door lock.. Key lock.

D.S.: You did have a key?

D.S.

L.B.: Yea. So there was stealing. What would people steal?

L.B.: Oh, theyd steal meat in the meat house or anything else. Course now we never did have none stole far as that goes..but I've heard different

ones say they had stuff missing. You know.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did you ever raise any beef?

L.B.: Beef? No we never did butcher any of our beef huhuh.

D.S.: Did you ever eat beef?

L.B.: Oh yea. Sure.

D.S.: Where would you buy it? W. <sup>Lee</sup> ~~Need~~ Judd's?

L.B.: Buy..no..generally buy that at Luray *when we went into*  
*Town* Been a long time before we got any beef there. We'd have  
to go to town.

D.S.: That was a long trip to go to town.

L.B.: Six miles.

D.S.: Sure. Horse and wagon?

L.B.: Wagon..uhhuh. Hook the old mule up to the wagon and take off to town.

D.S.: Bet you didn't go often did you?

L.B.: We'd go about every Saturday.

D.S.: You did?

L.B.: About every Saturday my father would go to town.

D.S.: Why, because it was the thing to do?

L.B.: Well, he just went out there. Or he'd go to a sale or something..be a  
public sale..boy he'd be right there.

D.S.: Could you give me an idea of a typical breakfast you would have.

L.B.: Well we'd mostly have..sometimes we'd have hotcakes..sometimes we'd  
have sausage, eggs, gravy, potaotes...

D.S.: That was a good breakfast.

L.B.: Yes it was. Hot bread..put on..what do you call that honey..put on  
top of the griddle..I always called it hot bread..I don't know what  
you called it. Make it in a big cake.

*end  
side!*

D.S.: Hoe Cake?

L.B.: Hoe Cake. I reckon that's what you call it.

D.S.: Sure. What would you put on top of it?

L.B.: Oh, butter and jelly..applebutter..cheese..cottage cheese you know.

Applebutter and cream that mostly what I Like. Cream about that thick you know in those pots...

D.S.: Your making me hungry..Ihaven't had breakfast...

MRS (They don't have breakfast like that now)

L.B.: We had plenty to eat. Didn't none of us go hungry.

D.S.: No. Nope. The meals were good. Your clothes. Did your stepmother make any clothes?

L.B.: Oh yea.

D.S.: She had a sewing machine.?

L.B.: Yea.

D.S.: You buy the material at <sup>See</sup> ~~Need~~ Judd's.

L.B.: Yea, there and at town together.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea. Right. Gee, can you think of anything I haven't asked you?

L.B.: I believe you bout covered it all.

D.S.: How could I have. How old were you when the park came in?

L.B.: Well, let's see how long has the park been here now.

D.S.: '34.

L.B.: '34. Well I'll be 71 the 12th of August.

MRS: (Seems to me like you all moved from up there about two or three years after we were married. Well you was still living there when we got married.)

L.B. I was still living at home when we got married,sugar.

MRS (It wasn't long after we got married, that they moved.)

L.B They lived there a couple years after we got married.

MRS. (I imagine it's been about 40 years since the park took that over.)

D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh. Was it hard to adjust to moving out of the mountains?

L.B.: Um..I didn't find it difficult moving out. I'd done got up to the age where I'd been around right smart.

D.S.: Do you feel that the people that have moved out of the mountains have had a better chance to get ahead?

L.B.: I think they did, yea.

MRS: (He rode nine, ten miles every day after we were married to go back up <sup>pick</sup> and see his father and bring him down. They worked together. And then he'd go back nine, ten miles to take him back that afternoon. Be about twenty miles..taking him and getting him home. Til they moved down.)

D.S.: Yea. So you've been a carpenter all your life?

L.B.: I was a carpenter..yea..not all the time. I got tired of that.

D.S.:Just think, if you'd been up there in the mountains..David wouldn't have had the education he has, Bobby wouldn't have had the education he's had.

L.B.: That's right.

MRS (That's true.)

D.S.: Uhhum. Have you any other children?

MRS (That's all. Bobby is the only one.)

L.B.: He's enough ain't he.

D.S.: What?

L.B.: I say he's enough ain't he.

D.S.: Well he plays the bass *fiddle*.

*MRS* (Trying anyway.)

*D.S.* Well I sure do thank you, but what I am going to do is leave this  
on in case you think of something else.

L.B.: Well, I think that's about it.

[audio continued for approximately seven minutes with  
discussions of release forms and Smith's book]